Clark, Alexander Frederick Bruce (Lecturer in English) Dec. 1917

(14)

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Extracted from XXXVI

635 Huron St.,
Toronto.
Dec. 14, 1917

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Sir Robert Falconer, LL. D.,
President of the University
of Toronto.

Dear Sir,

I received on Saturday a letter from the bursar's office dated Dec. 14, stating that at a meeting of the Board of Governors held the preceding day my resignation of the position of Lecturer in English had, upon the recommendation of the President, been accepted, to take effect at the close of the present

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President, University of
Toronto.

Clark, Alexander Fredrick Bruce (Lecturer in English)

Dec. 1917

term. If I am to take this letter literally, the situation is rather alarming for me, and I fear there has been some misunderstanding. I have sent in no letter of ~~not~~ resignation; the bursar's statement, therefore, can only refer to the conversations I had with you in your office last week. In the course of those I must have failed to make my position clear. That position is as follows:— I wish to remain in the University of Toronto, but Professor Alexander refuses to renew my appointment at the close of the current academic year; I am offered a position in the University of Washington, on condition that I occupy it on Jan. 2, 1918. There seems to be no alternative for me but to accept this position and

obtain release from my duties here immediately. You consented to give me this release, and I accepted this Washington position. But my acceptance of this position, and therefore my resignation of my Toronto position, are conditional on the Dominion Government granting me a permit to leave the country. That permit I have applied for; but I have not yet heard, and probably shall not hear for several days whether it will be granted me. If it is not granted I cannot take up my duties at the University of Washington, and the ~~pro~~offer, I presume, lapses. Surely it is not your intention that, in that case, I should lose the remaining half-year of my appointment here, and be suddenly left without means of subsistence for my wife and myself.

I cannot believe that is your real intention; but the Bursar's letter is open to that interpretation, and, at a time when almost more anxieties are pressing on my mind than I can bear, you would do much to relieve them by removing my alarm on this point.

The moment that I hear from Ottawa, I shall send you a letter of resignation. Until then, I supposed I could consider myself as still holding my appointment here.

I have appreciated your kind consideration in the past; I believe I can count on it still.

Very faithfully yours,

A. T. Bruce Clark

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December 14th, 1917

This is to certify that Mr. A. F. P. Clark, who has been a lecturer in English on the staff of University College, Toronto, has been granted permission by the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto to accept a position as Assistant Professor in the University of Washington, U.S.A. I see no reason why Mr. Clark should not be permitted to leave Canada in order to undertake the new duties of the office to which he has been called.

President, University of
Toronto.

582.

December 14th, 1917

This is to certify that Mr. A. F. B. Clark, who has been a lecturer in English on the staff of University College, Toronto, has been granted permission by the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto to accept a position as Assistant Professor in the University of Washington, U.S.A.

In view of the circumstances I should venture to urge that Mr. Clark be permitted to leave Canada in order to undertake the new duties of the office to which he has been called. It is necessary for Mr. Clarke to earn his living and I see no opening for him at present in Canada which will enable him to do so.

President, University of
Toronto.

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December 20th, 1917

Dr. A. P. P. Clark,

685 Huron Street,

Toronto.

Dear Mr. Clark:

As I told you I brought before the Board of Governors at its meeting last week the offer you had received from Washington and asked them to release you from your duties here. This action particularly in view of what you told me in the morning is final, and Dr. Alexander informs me that he has already made arrangements for the work of the coming term. I am strongly of opinion that you should look upon the acceptance of the new position as definite. It seems to me that it offers you a very good opening and that it relieves you from a relationship that has become extremely difficult.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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Extracted from XXXVI

635 Huron St.,
Toronto,
Dec. 24, 1917.

Sir Robert Falconer, M.A.,
President of the University of
Toronto.

Dear Sir,

I hereby tender you my resignation as Lecturer in English, the resignation to take effect immediately.

May I point out that your favour of Dec. 20 betrays a slight misunderstanding of my preceding letter? I never intended to convey the impression that I wished to re-consider my acceptance of the Washington offer;

my point was that the giving effect to that acceptance by going to Seattle was not in my power until I had received a permit to leave Canada from the Dominion Government. That permit I have now received; and I am sending you my resignation without delay.

I can assure you that any desire I may have had to continue my relations with the English Department has been dissipated by new evidence that has come to me during the past week of the relentless hardness and the lack of straightforwardness of the head of that Department. No man of independent mind and spirit could possibly work under such a chief. A week ago I had not realized how great the "relief", as you well call it, could be.

With renewed thanks for your kind consideration, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

A. F. Bruce Clark